



83613AEK
Customer No. 01333

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Robert P. Bourdelais, et al

**MICROVOIDED LIGHT DIFFUSER
CONTAINING OPTICAL CONTACT
LAYER**

Serial No. 10/017,002

Filed December 14, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Group Art Unit: 1774

Examiner:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Deidra L. Mack
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March 20 2002
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend as follows:

In the Specification

Please amend the specification beginning at page 11, line 30 through page 12, line 9 with the following:

Figure 1 illustrates a cross section of the diffuser of the invention containing a smoothing layer on one side of the voided polymer diffuser. Light diffuser 12 comprises polymer smoothing layer 22 and an integral air voided polymer base. Air voids 24 are dispersed in polymer matrix 26. Smoothing layer 22 is integral to voided polymer matrix 26 and contains the smoothing layer/voided layer interface 28.

Figure 2 illustrates a liquid crystal display device with a light diffuser with a smoothing layer. Visible light source 18 is illuminated and light is guided into acrylic board 2. Reflection tape 4 is used to focus light energy into

the acrylic board 2. Reflection tape 6, reflection tape 10 and reflection film 8 are utilized to keep light energy from exiting the acrylic board in a unwanted direction. Diffusion film 12 containing a smoothing layer is utilized to diffuse light energy exiting the acrylic board in the direction perpendicular to the diffusion film. Brightness enhancement film 14 is utilized to focus the light energy into polarization film 16. The diffusion film 12 containing a polymer smoothing layer is in optical contact with brightness enhancement film 14.

Please amend page 42 entitled "Parts List" as follows:

2. Light guide/acrylic board
4. Reflection tape
6. Reflection tape
8. Reflection film
10. Reflection tape
12. Light diffuser/diffusion film
14. Brightness enhancement film
16. Polarization film
22. Skin layer/Polymer smoothing layer
24. Air voids
26. Polymer matrix
28. Smoothing layer/voided layer interface

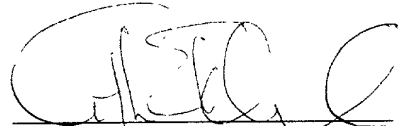
REMARKS

The basis for the amendment is as shown on the mark-up copy using the following legend:

- B. Description of Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, pages 11/12
- C. Parts List

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current preliminary amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,



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"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

The paragraph beginning at page 11, line 30 through page 12, line 9 is amended as follows:

Figure 1 illustrates a cross section of the diffuser of the invention containing a smoothing layer on one side of the voided polymer diffuser. Light diffuser 12 comprises polymer smoothing layer 22 and an integral air voided polymer base. Air voids 24 are dispersed in polymer matrix 26. Smoothing layer 22 is integral to voided polymer matrix 26 and contains the smoothing layer/
30 voided polymer interface 28. (C)
layer

Figure 2 illustrates a liquid crystal display device with a light diffuser with a smoothing layer. Visible light source 18 is illuminated and light is guided into acrylic board 2. Reflector^{ion} tape 4 is used to focus ~~of~~^{ion} light energy (C) into the acrylic board 2. Reflection tape 6, reflection tape 10 and reflection film 8 are utilized to keep light energy from exiting the acrylic board in a unwanted direction. Diffusion film 12 containing a smoothing layer is utilized to diffuse light energy exiting the acrylic board in the direction perpendicular to the diffusion film. Brightness enhancement film 14 is utilized to focus the light energy into polarization^{film} 16. The diffusion film 12 containing a polymer
5 smoothing layer is in optical contact with brightness enhancement film 14. (C)
10

On page 42, the Parts List is amended as follows:

Parts List

- 2; Light guide/*acrylic board* (B)
- 4; Reflection tape
- 6; Reflection tape
- 8; Reflection film
- 10; Reflection tape
- 12; Light diffuser / *diffusion film*
- 14; Brightness enhancement film
- 16; Polarization film
- 22; Skin layer / *Polymer smoothing layer* (B)
- 24; Air voids
- 26; Polymer matrix
- 28; ~~Skin~~ layer / voided layer interface (B)
Smoothing